



Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 16 No. 4

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

April 2017

Jesus Was the Perfect Sacrifice

From the Pastor's Desk

The Necessity of the Sacrifice on the Cross

Hebrews 9:22

A couple of years ago, I read an article which stated that "bloody" theology is a thing of the past, that modern church attendees do not want to hear about the blood spilled, the blood atonement, the blood sacrifice, or the bloody nails used to hang Jesus on the cross.

As a pastor and longtime Christian I find that interesting for a couple of reasons. First and possible foremost, we live in a day and age where cinematography has no problem gratuitously spilling blood on the big or little screen, whether it is a horror flick, a war movie, or a zombie saga. There is an entire generation of individuals who should, if for no other reason from overexposure, be quite comfortable and even emotionally scarred about seeing or even talking about blood.

Second, the word "blood" is used in several old hymns, thus the saints of the past did not have a problem talking about or promoting the blood-atonement work of Jesus Christ found on the cross. However, many new contemporary songs completely steer away from the subject and opt to focus on relationship to or with God.

I bring that up because the more austere and conservative generation in the past still focused on the blood, while the modern, liberal minded individual steers away from the subject altogether.

Third, those of us who grew up in church know of the blood that was spilled on the cross and, by virtue of that teaching, we have no problem embracing it or talking about it. Thus we should be the ones who stand forth in our churches and promote it more now than ever.

Why is it that modern churchgoers and millennials have such a hard time talking about the blood of Jesus Christ spilled for our atonement? Well, if I was to try and pin it down to one reason other than a moral degradation of our society, I think it would be because there is a loss of understanding about what the nature of a sacrifice for sin means. And in order to know what it means, one must first go back to the basic sacrificial system handed down to Moses by God in the Old Testament.

In the book of Hebrews we get a glimpse of the full impact

Upcoming Events and Meetings

April 1, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

The men share a meal, then engage in a Bible discussion.

April 2, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

April 9, 10:45 a.m. – Palm Sunday Service

April 14 – Good Friday

April 16, 6:02 a.m. – Sunrise Service

Field near Chichester Library and Congo. Church, 153 Main St., Chichester, NH

April 16, 10:45 a.m. – Resurrection Sunday Service

Celebrating the Lord's glorious resurrection!



April 29, 8:00 a.m. – Spring Cleaning Day

Getting the church ready for the summer

Weekly:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

Sundays at 10:45 a.m. – Worship Service

of a sacrifice when the author wrote, "Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. (ESV)" The other elements that were used to purify things in the Old Testament were (1) water if the substance was something like fabric or wood, and (2) fire for items such as metals and stone. But, as stated, it was "blood" spilled that atoned for sin.

So when Moses passed down the sacrificial system in the Pentateuch (first five books of the Bible), they were meant to take care of the sin of the individual or community.

However, no sooner did the sacrifice take place than the

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On the web at <http://www.hillside-sbc.org>

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

person was well aware of their sin nature and had to carry the burden of their own sin until the next time they sacrificed.

More importantly, each sacrifice of a lamb, goat, or bull ultimately pointed to the final sacrifice that Jesus was to perform on the cross. The major differences were that, unlike the unwilling animal, Jesus went willingly, unlike the imperfect animal, Jesus is perfect, and unlike the finite animal, Jesus is infinite. Thus His sacrifice was eternal and never needs repeating.

But most importantly, it was about the blood spilt. As Hebrews pointed out to us, without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. Thus it was imperative that Jesus came, lived the perfect life, and died the sinless death by the shedding of His blood that brought about total forgiveness of the one who received that blood. Through the imputation of Christ we get His righteousness and He in turn received our sins. Thus our sins were dealt with on the cross, that cross that shed His blood.

When God the Father looks upon us, He sees that blood covering us and thus He receives us as He would His own Son, Jesus. It is through the blood that we are made right before our heavenly Creator.

As we embark upon this upcoming Resurrection season in which the cross will be a symbol we see everywhere, let us not forget that such a symbol was one of death, but in Christ it brought life. The cross is symbolic of punishment, but in Christ it brought freedom. The blood-stained cross was about finality, but instead it promised the Christian eternity. That old rugged cross was meant to dash the spirit of anyone who would seek to oppose Rome, but instead, to the Christian, the blood spilled by Christ is hope that brings new life to anyone who accepts Him.

Let us not be among the throng who wants to do away with "bloody" theology, but instead be those who gladly speak of the perfect blood that was shed for our forgiveness. For it is through His blood that we are made righteous and holy before our God. He delights when we make much of His Son, Jesus Christ.

So let us share His blood-atonement work with others so that they too may know forgiveness and new life as well.

✠ Pastor Jim

Men's Breakfast

On Saturday, April 1st at 8 a.m., we won't be holding this event due to an unfortunately-timed snow storm that started Friday midday and continued into Saturday.

We just have to make up for it by having a really big breakfast in May.

Property and Space Patrol

Repairs were needed at the parsonage on Friday (3/31). The garage door spring had broken and it was discovered that the bracket on the door had rusted off. I tried to get a new one and couldn't find one.

The best option is to replace the doors, which are 23 years old and rotted across the bottom. The estimated cost is \$290.00 each. The plan is to replace them on the Spring Cleaning Day on April 29th.

The following repairs were made:

- Replaced the rear door knob and dead bolt lock on the parsonage.
- Repaired the dead bolt lock on the front door.
- Fixed the gutter downspouts that had been damaged by winter ice.

✠ Pastor Al

Spring Cleaning Day

On April 29th, we'll meet at 8 a.m. to start our annual spring cleaning. We'll give the church a thorough cleaning inside and we will also go outside and clean up fallen branches and rake out any sod dislodged by winter plowing.

✠ Pastor Al

Call It "Resurrection Day"

The following information about "Easter" comes from Christiananswers.net.

Scholars agree that the name "Easter" has its roots in ancient polytheistic religions (paganism). This name was never used in the original Scriptures, nor was it ever associated biblically with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. For these reasons, it is preferable to use the term "Resurrection Sunday" rather than "Easter" when referring to the annual Christian remembrance of Christ's resurrection from the dead on the third day after His crucifixion.

The Egg

Most children and families who color or hide Easter eggs as part of their Resurrection Sunday tradition have no knowledge of the origin of these traditions. Easter egg activities have become a part of Western culture.

"The egg was a sacred symbol among the Babylonians. They believed an old fable about an egg of wondrous size which was supposed to have fallen from heaven into the Euphrates River. From this marvelous egg — according to the ancient story — the Goddess Astarte (Easter) [Semiramis], was hatched. And so the egg came to symbolize the Goddess Easter."¹

The idea of a mystic egg spread from Babylon to many parts of the world. In Rome, the mystic egg preceded processions in honor of the Mother Goddess Roman. The egg was part of the sacred ceremonies of the Mysteries of Bacchus. The Druids used the egg as their sacred emblem. In Northern Europe, China, and Japan the eggs were colored for their sacred festivals.

The egg was also a symbol of fertility; Easter (Semiramis) was the Goddess of Fertility. The Easter egg is a symbol of the pagan Mother Goddess, and it even bears one of her names.

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The Bunny

The rabbit is well known as a sexual symbol of fertility. In various parts of the world, religions which developed from Babel also associate the rabbit with periodicity, both human and lunar (for example, Egypt and China). The Mother Goddess, Easter (Semiramis), is associated with the Moon. In other words, the Easter bunny symbolizes the Mother Goddess.

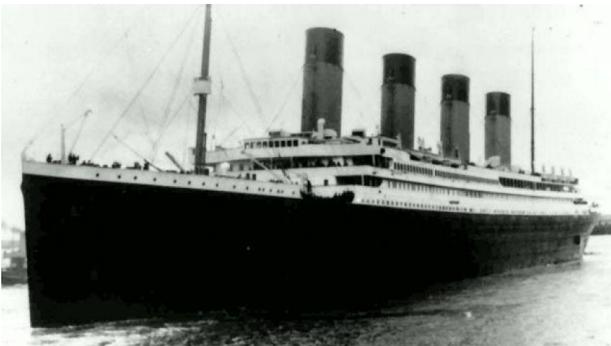
Annual springtime fertility rituals are associated with worship of the Mother Goddess and Tammuz, the re-incarnation of her husband, Nimrod. (See Genesis 10:8-12.)

¹ Ralph Woodrow, *Babylon Mystery Religion* (Riverside, California: Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Assn., 1966), pp. 152-153.

The Band That Played On

One hundred and five years ago, on the night of April 14, 1912, the flagship of the White Star Line, the RMS Titanic, hit an iceberg and sank in the icy waters of the North Atlantic. Out of a total on board of 2,224, 711 were saved, and 1,513 perished.

But an extraordinary event took place that helped calm frantic passengers and provide a glimmer of hope. It involved the hired musicians who continued to play as the ship sank. Author Steve Turner described those final hours in his 2013 book on the subject. The following article is his recollection of what happened on "A Night to Remember."



Since writing my book, *The Band That Played On: The Extraordinary Story of the 8 Musicians Who Went Down with the Titanic*, the most frequent question I've been asked is why the Titanic's eight musicians continued to play on the deck even as the ship was going down. Were they told to do so by the Captain? Was it part of their job description? Did they think they would be saved?

While doing research for my book, I discovered that the band's musicians were not employees of the White Star Line. They were employed by a Liverpool music agency that was in turn paid by the ship company.

This arrangement was to impact the dependents of the musicians who found out, after the disaster, that they weren't entitled to the compensation due to the relatives of those who signed the ship's articles.

As they weren't ship's employees they would have had the same rights as any passenger to leave the ship by the lifeboats supplied. The Captain could have recommended that they play, but he couldn't have ordered them to do so.

I believe the band took the courageous decision to play because of the moral character of their leader, the violinist Wallace Hartley. This musician, who'd previously played on both the Mauretania and the Lusitania, was from the small town of Colne in Lancashire, England, and was raised in the Methodist church. His father was the choirmaster there and responsible for introducing the hymn "Nearer, My God, to Thee" to the congregation.

By all accounts Hartley was a highly principled person and a devout Christian. He'd recently been engaged to a young Christian girl, Maria Robinson, and they planned to marry after he'd completed a few trips on the Titanic. He was personable, cheerful, and would always attend church when he was back on land.

There are two interesting comments that he made to colleagues that shed some light on why he behaved as he did. The first was mentioned by a musician on the Celtic named John Carr who had worked with Hartley.

"I don't suppose he (Hartley) waited to be sent for, but after finding how dangerous the situation was he probably called his men together and began playing," said Carr. "I know he often said that music was a bigger weapon for stopping disorder than anything on earth. He knew the value of the weapon he had, and I think he proved his point."

The second was said to Ellwand Moody, a musician on the Mauretania, who had served under Hartley. He told a British newspaper; "I remember one day I asked him what he would do if he were ever on a sinking ship and he replied 'I don't think I would do better than play 'Oh God Our Help in Ages Past' or 'Nearer My God to Thee'."

So it appears almost certain that Wallace Hartley had contemplated being on a sinking ship and had already decided how he would respond. He believed that music could prevent panic and create calm. He had also chosen his final piece of music.

I didn't discover any stories from the lives of these musicians that led me to think that they were born with the gene of courage. As with most people who perform heroic acts, I suspect they didn't know what they were made of until the moment came when they had to reveal it.

But I also think that without the moral and spiritual caliber of Wallace Hartley, the man to whom they looked for musical guidance, they may not have discovered their inner resources.

The Flood, Circa 2017 A.D.

The following fanciful story was submitted by Cynthia Ward. It illustrates how much today's local, state and federal governments control our lives, compared to the days of Noah, when there was virtually no government.

See *Flood* on p. 4

Flood, from p. 3

In the year 2017, the Lord came unto Noah, who was now living in America and said: "Once again, the earth has become wicked and overpopulated, and I see the end of all flesh before me."

"Build another Ark and save two of every living thing along with a few good humans."

He gave Noah the blueprints, saying:

"You have six months to build the Ark before I start the unending rain for 40 days and 40 nights."

Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his yard – but no Ark. "Noah!" He roared, "I'm about to start the rain! Where is the Ark?"

"Forgive me, Lord," begged Noah, "but things have changed. I needed a Building Permit. I've been arguing with the Boat Inspector about the need for a sprinkler system."

"Also, my homeowner's association claimed that I've violated the Neighborhood By-Laws by building the Ark in my back yard and exceeding the zoning height limitations. We had to go to the local Planning Committee for a decision."

"Then the City Council and the Electric Company demanded a shed load of money for the future costs of moving power lines and other overhead obstructions, to clear the passage for the Ark's move to the sea. I told them that the sea would be coming to us, but they would hear none of it."

"Getting the wood was another problem. There's a ban on cutting local trees in order to save the Greater Spotted Barn Owl. I tried to convince the environmentalists that I needed the wood to save the owls - but no go!"

"When I started gathering the animals, PETA took me to court (no, not People Eating Tasty Animals). They insisted that I was confining wild animals against their will. They argued the spaces were too restrictive and it was cruel and inhumane to put so many animals in a confined space."

"Then the Environmental Protection Agency ruled that I couldn't build the Ark until they conducted an environmental impact study on Your proposed flood."

"I'm still trying to resolve a complaint with the Human Rights Commission on how many minorities I'm supposed to hire for my building crew."

"The Immigration Dept. is checking the Visa status of most of the people who want to work. The labor unions say I can't use my sons. They insist I have to hire only union workers with ark-building experience."

"To make matters worse, the IRS seized all my assets, claiming I'm trying to leave the country illegally with endangered species. So, forgive me, Lord, but it would take at least 10 years for me to finish this ark."

"Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine and a rainbow stretched across the sky."

Noah looked up in wonder and asked, "You mean you're not going to destroy the world?"

"No," said the Lord. "The government beat me to it."

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Hillside wishes a happy, happy, happy birthday to the following people who are celebrating another orbit around the Sun:

4/6 Ruth Bubacz

4/20 Jack Ward



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on the following people who celebrate a wedding anniversary this month:

4/10 Gerry & Barbara Kingsbury

4/28 Al & Rachel Page

Prayer Requests

If you need us to pray for a physical, spiritual, financial, marital, or other need, contact Pastor Jim, Pastor Al, or Michael Frascinella and they will get the word out to the membership. It is our duty and privilege to lift you up in prayer to Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hillside on the Web

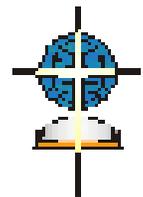
Go to the Hillside web site <http://www.hillside-sbc.org/> for more information about our fellowship, including this newsletter in PDF format.

Submissions for Next Issue

Deadline is April 25. Send news items to News Wrangler and Editor, Michael Frascinella, mfrascinella at comcast dot net.



Hillside Baptist Church is a member of the New Hampshire Baptist Association, part of the Southern Baptist Convention.



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